

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace paragraph 4 spanning from page 1 to page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Typically, a touch panel can be input data via a soft keyboard displayed on a screen (~~see patent document 1~~ see, e.g., Japanese Laid-open No. 08-221169).

For soft keyboards, many proposals aimed at improving usability have been made. Among such proposals are : (a) when, in a search operation, a character is inputted based on the Japanese syllabary, only the characters that may, based on prepared data, follow the inputted character are displayed on a screen to make the search operation easier; and (b) every time a character is inputted in a name search operation, the displays of Japanese syllabary characters which cannot follow the inputted character are dimmed, or when only a part of a name to be searched for is known, a partial-match search is enabled to generate a list of partial matches from which the searcher can select one (~~see non-patent document 1~~ see, e.g., "99 SUMMER CAR NAVIGATION NEW MODEL SHOPPING GUIDE" as a July extra magazine of "MONTHLY MAGAZINE AUTOMOBILE CAR", Date of issue: 08.07.1999, Naigai Publishing company Ltd.; Page 52, Page 58).